

# Advisory Council on Aging and Disability Services

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*Creating choices for elders and adults with disabilities in Seattle-King County*

## MONTHLY MEETING

**JULY 9, 2004**

### MEMBERS PRESENT

CITY OF SEATTLE	KING COUNTY	UNITED WAY
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thelma Coney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gabriel Cohen, Vice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Martha Becker
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joanne Brekke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Helen Spencer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Will Parry
<input type="checkbox"/> Adam John	<input type="checkbox"/> John Holecek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thelma Pegues
<input type="checkbox"/> Alexandra Tu	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Barnett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Timmie Faghin, Chair
<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Rasmussen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Larry Verhei	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Moreland
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Larry Low, Secretary	<input type="checkbox"/> Steve Colwell	<input type="checkbox"/> Suzanne Wiley
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/> Lisa Yeager, Member At Large	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Midge Levy
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant

**Excused Absence** Adam John, Alexandra Tu, John Holecek, Lisa Yeager and Suzanne Wiley

**Guests** Garth Bramwell, Nancy Walton-House, Carol Hannum, Beruke Giday, Catherine Wu, Irma Farsch, Marc Avni, Alex O'Reilly, Pat Melgard, and Dr. Robert Gross

**ADS Staff** Selina Chow, Rosemary Cunningham, Georgiana Arnold, Margaret Casey, Karen Winston, Linda Wells and Ozell Bledsoe

**United Way Staff** Linda Woodall

## MINUTES

**Timmie Faghin**, Chair convened the Advisory Council meeting at 12:00 p.m. She asked everyone attending to introduce themselves. Timmie asked if there were any requests for changes to the minutes or the order of the agenda. There were no requests for changes.

**Action Taken:** It was moved/seconded and passed that the June 11, 2004 minutes be approved with corrections.

**Timmie** introduced members of the Planning and Allocations Committee to give reports on their site visits to select programs which ADS funds.

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In association with the Area Agency on Aging for Seattle-King County and sponsored by:



City of Seattle



King County

**PROGRAM TOPIC**  
PLANNING & ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Thelma Coney and Timmie Faghin** reported on eight site visits during March, April and May to senior programs in King County by members of the Planning & Allocations Committee. P & A members visited congregate nutrition sites: Renton Senior Center and the Pacific Asian Empowerment Program; elder abuse services at Fremont Public Association; a wellness program at Southeast Senior Center Senior; the information & assistance program at the Chinese Information & Service Center; and adult day services at Elder Health Northwest (in Jefferson Terrace). They provided updates on various activities and programs offered at each facility including: recreational activities, foot care, blood pressure checks, computer classes, square dancing classes, day trips, and congregate meals. **Larry Verhei** also provided some comments about activities and programs offered at one facility he visited. **John Barnett** provided information about the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (at Fremont Public Association), a program designed to improve the quality of life for people who live in a licensed long-term care facility, to protect and promote their rights and to help them become self-advocates. An ombudsman is a volunteer who listens to concerns and questions. They work with residents, families, staff, local and state agencies and other organizations to resolve problems or answer questions. **Joanne Brekke** reported on her visit to Center Park, a Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) facility, and the Evergreen Health Care's Geriatric Reassessment Team (GRAT), a mental health program, which provides different crisis and non-crisis interventions including geriatric crisis services, family caregiver counseling and guardianship evaluations and is a specialized crisis intervention and stabilization service available to older adults in King County. The team consists of a registered nurse, geriatric mental health specialist, an occupational therapist and a psychiatrist. The team works collaboratively to provide in-home medical, psychosocial and functional assessments for people age 60 and older who meet the criteria for eligibility. There is no fee for these crisis services and GRAT will see individuals within 3 business days of referral.

**Thelma Coney and Selina Chow** reported on the Preliminary 2005 Allocations Recommendations. The P & A Committee developed recommendations for service reductions in anticipation of a budget reduction of up to \$100,000 due to the uncertainties on the OAA carryover amount. In December, the committee will review the impact of the city budget reductions on the discretionary services. They suggested that reductions be focused on the areas where one-time only funding exists, or alternative funding may be possible. In addition, the committee encouraged staff to explore ways to connect with other systems including any enhancements in aging services through faith-based initiatives. Specific items for reductions include: 1) eliminate technology support: \$47,000, 2) replace a portion of Client Specific Fund (Amy Wong Client Fund) with federal Medicaid funds for a savings of \$25,000, 3) explore the possibility of transferring Home Health Maintenance Service clients onto alternative funding for an amount of savings to be determined, and 4) across-the-board cut for the remaining savings needed. She provided dates and a timeline for review and public hearings prior to making final Advisory Council recommendations on August 11, 2004. After the release of the Mayor's budget

in September, the City Council will adopt a City Budget in late November. The amount of reductions may be significant and would impact one or more of the above service areas. Thelma moved that the Advisory Council members accept the Preliminary 2005 Allocations Recommendations by the Planning and Allocations Committee. The committee recommendations will be forwarded to the Sponsors.

**Action Taken:** It was moved/seconded and passed that the Preliminary 2005 Allocations Recommendations by the Planning and Allocations Committee be accepted as presented.

## **BUSINESS MEETING**

### **New Business**

**Timmie Faghin** announced three upcoming meetings: 1) the new member orientation on July 16<sup>th</sup> and asked members participate; 2) Washington State Alliance for Retired Americans meeting regarding Medicare on July 15<sup>th</sup>, asked that members take voter registration forms and sign people up to vote; and 3) City Councilman Tom Rasmussen will hold a hearing on the Sec 8 housing voucher program Tuesday, July 13<sup>th</sup> in City Hall.

## **COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS**

### **Planning and Allocation Committee**

**Thelma Coney** reported public hearings on Discretionary Allocation Recommendations will be 1) Tuesday, July 27<sup>th</sup> at the Safeco Jackson Street Center and 2) Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Renton Senior Center.

### **State Council on Aging**

**Joanne Brekke** reported on the State Council on Aging meeting June 27<sup>th</sup>. They discussed medically needy income level, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, and mental health. She invited members to attend Senior Lobby Day on Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at the SeaTac Hilton.

### **Outreach and Advocacy**

**Don Moreland** reported on the Legislative Forum, the theme is: "*Leave no person behind*" or "*Mending the safety net*", on September 29<sup>th</sup>. The Forum will focus on restoring the Medicaid program to its 2003 funding levels and eliminating Medicaid co-pay. The next Legislative Forum meeting will be Wednesday, July 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 in the 10<sup>th</sup> floor conference room.

### **Health Care Task Force**

**Larry Verhei** reported that **Michael Bowers**, Director of Therapeutic Activities, Garden Terrace Alzheimer's Center (Federal Way, WA) spoke to the HCTF about Dementia, a brain disorder that seriously affects a person's ability to carry out daily activities. The most common form of dementia among older people is Alzheimer's disease (AD), which involves the parts of the brain that control thought, memory, and language. Scientists are learning more every day, but they still do not know what causes AD, and there is no cure. Michael reported that the only

definite way to diagnose AD is to find out whether there are plaques and tangles in brain tissue, which means doctors must wait until they do an autopsy. Therefore, doctors can only make a diagnosis of "possible" or "probable" AD while the person is still alive. Michael also suggested that baby-boomers be ready for the cost of care after diagnosis with AD. Larry moved that the Advisory Council send a letter to Washington State senators in support of a congressional bill entitled the Ronald Reagan Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act of 2004, a bipartisan bill, proposing to increase funding for Alzheimer's research, to give a tax credit to pay for caregivers, and to increase authorization levels for the National Family Caregivers Support demonstration project. **Action Taken:** It was moved/seconded and passed that the Advisory Council send a letter to Washington State senators in support of the Ronald Reagan Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act of 2004, a bipartisan bill, proposing to increase funding for Alzheimer's research, to give a tax credit to pay for caregivers, and to increase authorization levels for the National Family Caregivers Support demonstration project.

### **Communications Committee**

**Timmie Faghin** reported that the Seniors Digest is now online in monthly e-magazine format featuring different articles and a comment section for feedback. She asked Council members to login and view the site and to spread the word about Seniors Digest online.

### **Old Business**

**Larry Verhei** provided a brief update about the response to a letter regarding the Cash and Counseling proposal.

### **New Business**

**Timmie Faghin** provided an update about the correspondence letters sent out in June.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Rosemary Cunningham** reported that **Pam Piering** is attending the National Area Agency on Aging Association (N4A) Conference in Atlanta and will give a presentation on the Healthy Aging initiatives. She reported that **Linda Wells** has been assigned as the local planning Chair for the 2005 N4A Conference scheduled to be in Bellevue. **Rosemary** also reported that effective January 2005 the state will take over the billing process for home care services. As a result, ADS will discontinue the electronic billing of home care services and agencies will return to manual billing and bill the state directly.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

## **NEXT MEETING**

**Program Topic:**  
**THE GATEKEEPERS PROGRAM**

**Friday, August 13, 2004**  
**12:00 – 2:00 p.m.**  
**13<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room**  
**Alaska Building**  
**618 Second Ave, Seattle, WA 98104**  
**[www.adsadvisorycouncil.org](http://www.adsadvisorycouncil.org)**

Larry Low, Secretary \_\_\_\_\_ **Approved 8/06/04**